

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 13453 111719Z

66

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06

DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 /106 W

----- 087956

R 111705Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GW, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS

REF: (A) STATE 189483; (B) BONN 18154 (75);
(C) STATE 15586 (75)

1. EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR CALLED ON GRUENDEL, DIS-
ARMAMENT SECTION, IN THE FRG FONOFF. EMBOFF LEFT
NON-PAPER WITH SUBSTANCE REF A, NOTING U.S. HAD MADE
ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS BEFORE IN CONSULTATIONS REPORTED
IN REFS B AND C. EMBOFF ASKED THAT FRG MINISTRY OF
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND KREDITANSTAIT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU
ALSO BE INFORMED THAT USG HAD ONCE AGAIN MADE A FORMAL
DEMARCHE TO THE FRG TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDER-
STANDINGS OF U.S. VIEWS ABOUT THE USE OF NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVES IN THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT.

2. GRUENDEL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE HAD MADE THAT POINT
CLEAR. THE FRG SHARED THE U.S. ASSESSMENT THAT A MAJOR
EXCAVATION USING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES WOULD VIOLATE
THE LTBT. HE REVIEWED, HOWEVER, THE VIEWS OF THE
NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM AND
AS THEY HAD EMERGED DURING THE JUNE MEETING OF THE IAEA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 13453 111719Z

AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP ON PNE'S IN VIENNA. HE FELT

THAT THE EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS IMPROBABLE THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES COULD BE USED IN THE QATTARA PROJECT. NEVERTHELESS, THE EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS WERE PRESSING THE POINT, HE BELIEVED, TO INSURE THAT THE NWS DID NOT ESCAPE THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE NPT. EVEN THE FRG, WHICH SHARED THE U.S. VIEW ABOUT MAJOR EXCAVATIONS, WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PNE'S FOR SUITABLE PURPOSES.

3. WHIIE GRUENDEL RECOGNIZED THAT THE PRESENT CONSULTATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL, HE ASKED WHY THE U.S. DID NOT MAKE ITS VIEWS ABOUT THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE QATTARA PROJECT PUBLIC, TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND ACCUSATIONS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TACTICALLY UNWISE TO DO SO UNTIL THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAD BEEN COMPLETED. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE STUDY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT NUCLEAR EXCAVATION WOULD BE TECHNICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE. GRUENDEL SPECULATED THAT THE ENTIRE PROJECT MIGHT NOT PROVE TO BE FEASIBLE AT ALL BUT OBSERVED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN IT.

4. ECON COUNSELOR HAS ALSO CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS TO OPPELT OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTRY, WHO UNDERTOOK TO PASS THEM ON TO HOPFEN AND ROSKE OF THE KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU. OPPELT SAID THAT HE AND HIS FRG COLLEAGUES ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE WERE ALREADY WELL AWARE OF THE U.S. POSITION ON THE MATTER. HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT OUR VIEW HAD BEEN BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF MINISTER SULTAN AND THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN OFFICE. HIS OWN MINISTRY, OPPELT SAID, HAS ALWAYS EMPHASIZED ITS TECHNICAL ROLE AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF LTBT QUESTIONS. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS STILI THOUGHT THEY HAVE A GOOD IEGAI CASE FOR PNE MEASURES IF STUDIES SHOULD INDICATE THEIR FEASIBILITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 13453 111719Z

HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEMARCHE, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, QATTARA PROJECT, EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-0894
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760866/aaaacfic.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 189483, 76 BONN 18154, 76 STATE 15586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GE, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006